What Is Claimed Is:

1 1. A method of enabling a user to customize a work flow associated with an operation

2 in a meta directory server, said operation requiring communication with at least two data

3 sources, said method comprising:

4 providing a plurality of built-in tasks to implement said operation requiring

5 communication with said two data sources, at least one of said plurality of built-in tasks

6 containing an extension point;

7 receiving from said user data indicating a custom task associated with said extension

8 point; and

9 executing said custom task when said extension point is reached during execution of

10 said one of said plurality of built-in tasks.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of built-in tasks are provided by a

2 designer implementing said meta directory server, wherein said designer is different from

3 said user.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said custom task contains an another

2 extension point, said method further comprises receiving from said user data indicating an

3 another custom task to be executed when said another extension point is reached during

4 execution of said custom task.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

2 determining a corresponding set of extension points available in each of said plurality

3   of built-in tasks;

4   displaying each of said set of extension points associated with a corresponding one

5   of said plurality of built-in tasks;

6   displaying said custom task and said another custom task; and

7   enabling said user to specify said custom task associated with said extension point,

8   and said another custom task associated with said another extension point.

1   5. The method of claim 3, further comprising enabling said user to specify that said

2   custom task is to be executed synchronously, wherein said custom task is executed in a

3   synchronous manner.

1   6. The method of claim 3, further comprising enabling said user to specify that said

2   custom task is to be executed asynchronously, wherein said custom task is executed in a

3   asynchronous manner.

1   7. The method of claim 3, wherein said operation comprises either a synchronization

2   operation or a consolidation operation such that said plurality of built-in tasks implement

3   either said synchronization operation or said consolidation operation.

1   8. The method of claim 7, wherein at least one of said two data sources comprises a

2   relational database.

1   9. The method of claim 3, further comprising providing an utility to indicate that a

2   specific one of said extension points is reached.

1   10. The method of claim 3, further comprising providing an utility in each of said

2   plurality of built-in tasks and said custom task, wherein said utility indicates extension points

3   available in a corresponding task.

1   11. A computer readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for

2   causing a meta directory server to enable a user to customize a work flow associated with an

3   operation, said operation requiring communication with at least two data sources, wherein

4   execution of said one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors contained

5   in said meta directory server causes said one or more processors to perform the actions of:

6   providing a plurality of built-in tasks to implement said operation requiring

7   communication with said two data sources, at least one of said plurality of built-in tasks

8   containing an extension point;

9   receiving from said user data indicating a custom task associated with said extension

10   point; and

11   executing said custom task when said extension point is reached during execution of

12   said one of said plurality of built-in tasks.

1   12. The meta directory server of claim 11, wherein said plurality of built-in tasks are

2   provided by a designer implementing said meta directory server, wherein said designer is

3   different from said user.

1   13. The meta directory server of claim 11, wherein said custom task contains an

2   another extension point, further comprises receiving from said user data indicating an another

3   custom task to be executed when said another extension point is reached during execution

4   of said custom task.

1   14. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising:

2   determining a corresponding set of extension points available in each of said plurality

3   of built-in tasks;

4   displaying each of said set of extension points associated with a corresponding one

5   of said plurality of built-in tasks;

6   displaying said custom task and said another custom task; and

7   enabling said user to specify said custom task associated with said extension point,

8   and said another custom task associated with said another extension point.

1   15. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising enabling said user to

2   specify that said custom task is to be executed synchronously, wherein said custom task is

3   executed in a synchronous manner.

1   16. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising enabling said user to

2   specify that said custom task is to be executed asynchronously, wherein said custom task is

3   executed in a asynchronous manner.

1   17. The meta directory server of claim 13, wherein said operation comprises either

2   a synchronization operation or a consolidation operation such that said plurality of built-in

3   tasks implement either said synchronization operation or said consolidation operation.

1   18. The meta directory server of claim 17, wherein at least one of said two data

2   sources comprises a relational database.

1   19. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising providing an utility to

2   indicate that a specific one of said extension points is reached.

1   20. The meta directory server of claim 13, further comprising providing an utility in

2   each of said plurality of built-in tasks and said custom task, wherein said utility indicates

3   extension points available in a corresponding task.

1   21. A meta directory server enabling a user to customize a work flow associated with

2   an operation, said operation requiring communication with at least two data sources, said

3   meta directory server comprising:

4   means for providing a plurality of built-in tasks to implement said operation requiring

5   communication with said two data sources, at least one of said plurality of built-in tasks

6   containing an extension point;

7   means for receiving from said user data indicating a custom task associated with said

8   extension point; and

9   means for executing said custom task when said extension point is reached during

10   execution of said one of said plurality of built-in tasks.

1   22. The meta directory server of claim 21, wherein said plurality of built-in tasks are

2   provided by a designer implementing said meta directory server, wherein said designer is

3   different from said user.

1   23. The meta directory server of claim 21, wherein said custom task contains an

2   another extension point, further comprises means for receiving from said user data indicating

3   an another custom task to be executed when said another extension point is reached during

4   execution of said custom task.

1   24. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising:

2   means for determining a corresponding set of extension points available in each of

3   said plurality of built-in tasks;

4   means for displaying each of said set of extension points associated with a

5   corresponding one of said plurality of built-in tasks;

6   means for displaying said custom task and said another custom task; and

7   means for enabling said user to specify said custom task associated with said

8   extension point, and said another custom task associated with said another extension point.

1   25. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising means for enabling said

2   user to specify that said custom task is to be executed synchronously, wherein said custom

3   task is executed in a synchronous manner.

1   26. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising means for enabling said

2   user to specify that said custom task is to be executed asynchronously, wherein said custom

3   task is executed in a asynchronous manner.

1   27. The meta directory server of claim 23, wherein said operation comprises either

2   a synchronization operation or a consolidation operation such that said plurality of built-in

3   tasks implement either said synchronization operation or said consolidation operation.

1   28. The meta directory server of claim 27, wherein at least one of said two data

2   sources comprises a relational database.

1   29. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising an utility means to

2   indicate that a specific one of said extension points is reached.

1   30. The meta directory server of claim 23, further comprising an utility means in each

2   of said plurality of built-in tasks and said custom task, wherein said utility means indicates

3   extension points available in a corresponding task.

1   31. A meta directory server enabling a user to customize a work flow associated with

2   an operation, said operation requiring communication with at least two data sources, said

3   meta directory server comprising:

4   a task registry block storing data related to a plurality of built-in tasks to implement

5   said operation requiring communication with said two data sources, at least one of said

6   plurality of built-in tasks containing an extension point;

7   a user interface module receiving from said user, data indicating a custom task

8   associated with said extension point; and

9   work-flow manager module for executing said custom task when said extension point

10   is reached during execution of said one of said plurality of built-in tasks.

1   32. The meta directory server of claim 31, wherein said plurality of built-in tasks are

2   provided by a designer implementing said meta directory server, wherein said designer is

3   different from said user.

1   33. The meta directory server of claim 31, wherein said custom task contains an

2   another extension point, wherein said user interface further receives data indicating an

3   another custom task to be executed when said another extension point is reached during

4   execution of said custom task.

1   34. The meta directory server of claim 33, wherein said user interface modules

2   displays each of said set of extension points associated with a corresponding one of said

3   plurality of built-in tasks, and enables said user to specify said custom task associated with

4   said extension point and said another custom task associated with said another extension

5   point.

1   35. The meta directory server of claim 33, wherein said user interface enables said

2   user to specify that said custom task is to be executed synchronously, wherein said custom

3   task is executed in a synchronous manner.

1   36. The meta directory server of claim 33, wherein said user interface enables said

2   user to specify that said custom task is to be executed asynchronously, wherein said custom

3   task is executed in a asynchronous manner.